Ichord Says Peace Will Not Halt Activities of 'Revolutionaries'

Post 12/15/72

Associated Press

The chairman of the House Internal Security Committee says peace in Vietnam will not put an end to activities by "hard-core revolutionaries." He predicts they will regroup and "try to find new issues to exploit."

The "sharp ones, the ones who really constitute serious threats, know that they are in no position to overthrow the government of the United States at the present time," said Rep. Richard H. Ichord (D-Mo.), head of the committee.

He said they will therefore seek to exploit issues "with which a large number of people that are loyal to the United States will agree, just as the issue of the war in Vietnam was one."

In an interview, Ichord said: "The name of the game is issue exploitation. In fact, this has been one of the disagreements between the various revolutionary groups within the country, as to what issues they can exploit."

He said there has "already" been an effort by subversive groups to exploit the issue of prison reform.

He said some subversives have advocated "taking the ecology issue to the streets." Busing is another "very ripe issue for a revolutionary group," he added.

He said the Vietnam war "provided the issue which could be exploited, and this has cloused the police forces, the security forces, within the United States a great deal of trouble. "So the end of the war in Vietnam is going to bring to an end the principal issue of exploitation."

Ichord said he would press anew for legislation — which died during the past Congress — to bar unauthorized trips by Americans to a nation in armed conflict with U.S. forces. There will "still be a need for the legislation," he said, even with peace in Vietnam.